

Application No. 09/866,529

Filed: May 25, 2001

Group Art Unit: 1745

can be used to produce no other products aside from those claimed in claims 25-37. Furthermore, Applicant is not aware of other processes for making the electrolytes of claims 25-37, aside from the processes of claims 38 and 39. The alternate process proposed by the Examiner is not one that would be considered by one skilled in the art, since both heating and exposure to UV light would not be combined in the same process, since each is a method to produce free radical species. In any case, if the process proposed by the Examiner were to be a viable process, it would be a process that would represent a claim dependent on Applicant's claim 38.

2. In response to the Election Requirement, Applicant elects salts having an imidazolium cation, with traverse. Applicant believes that all 12 cation salts disclosed in Claim 25 and depicted in Figure 1 of the instant application should be examined as a generic claim. The essence of this invention is the incorporation of quantities of organic cation salts into the gel polymer electrolyte matrix. Such salts, surprisingly, improve the performance and safety characteristics of electrochemical storage devices (please refer to page 5, lines 27-31). Furthermore, electrolytes comprising organic cation salts of this invention have reduced flammability and reduced volatility, properties that

Application No. 09/866,529

Filed: May 25, 2001

Group Art Unit: 1745

are critical to the design of safer power sources (please refer to page 10, lines 24-30 and page 19-20, line 30 onward). Because the benefits of reduced flammability and volatility are independent of organic cation structure in accordance with the data presented in Table 2 of the instant application, the Applicant believes that the 12 organic cations of Claim 25 are not patentably distinct.

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

ALAN B. MCEWEN

By: 

Arthur S. Morgenstern

Registration No. 28,244

Attorney for Applicant(s)

WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN,
GAGNEBIN & LEOVICI LLP
Ten Post Office Square
Boston, MA 02109
Telephone: (617) 542-2290
Telecopier: (617) 451-0313

ASM/dkh/289616

Enclosure